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**LT. GOVERNOR SKILLMAN ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
NATIONAL TAIWAN UNIVERSITY, PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

TAIPEI, TAIWAN -- Today Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced that a letter of intent has been signed to formalize the long-term collaboration between National Taiwan University and Purdue University. The two institutions will exchange students and faculty and assist each other in training agricultural researchers and officers. Purdue University Dean of Agriculture Randy Woodson and National Taiwan University Dean of Bioresources and Agriculture Bao-Ji Chen signed the agreement, while Lt. Governor Skillman and National Taiwan University Vice President for Academic Affairs Tai-Jen George Chen served as witnesses.

“Today marks a very important milestone in Indiana’s relationship with Taiwan,” said Lt. Governor Skillman. “One of our most prestigious schools, Purdue University, will officially partner with National Taiwan University to pursue academic excellence in agriculture. This international partnership is a critical part of the agriculture industry. We are taking the first step today toward a future of innovation and progress.”

“After a recent visit to Purdue University, National Taiwan University Dean Chen and I started to discuss this agreement,” said Dean Woodson. “The planning for the Indiana Food and Agricultural Trade Mission to Taiwan was already under way, and the timing was perfect to merge these two events. We are proud of the potential for this partnership. It solidifies that both schools of agriculture are working together on our common challenges.”

Located in the heart of Taipei, National Taiwan University was founded in 1928 and was the first university in Taiwan. The University has grown to eleven colleges with more than 30,000 students in both undergraduate and graduate programs. The School of Bioresources and Agriculture is the largest of the eleven colleges.

The Purdue University-National Taiwan University agreement was signed on the first day of a weeklong agricultural trade mission to Taiwan and Vietnam led by Lt. Governor Skillman. The Lt. Governor is accompanied by delegates from Indiana’s grain and feed, meats, hardwood, wine, and organic industries, as well as the academic and business communities. State legislators and other government officials are also in attendance.

During the trade mission, Lt. Governor Skillman and the delegation will provide a daily blog and post photos on the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Web site. The blog can be found at:  
[www.in.gov/isda/foodag\\_mission](http://www.in.gov/isda/foodag_mission).

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